

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for instructing a student to play music on a stringed instrument having a fingerboard, the system comprising:

sheet music comprising a musical staff and musical notes with colored fingering numbers placed above the musical notes; and

broken lines between some of the colored fingering numbers,

wherein the colored fingering numbers indicate the string on which the student should place a finger and indicate the hand position of the student's hand on the fingerboard and the finger that should be used, and

wherein the broken lines indicate a shift in the hand position of the student's hand on the fingerboard.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the broken lines are colored, and the color of a given broken line corresponds to the string on which the student's finger should be placed.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the broken lines comprise dotted or dashed lines, and the number of dots or dashes in a given broken line corresponds to the hand position into which the student's hand should be shifted.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the colored fingering numbers have different formats, and the format of a given colored fingering number indicates the hand position on the fingerboard in which the student's hand should be placed.

5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the different formats comprise variations in the boldness, italics, font type and/or font size of the colored fingering numbers.

6. A method for customizing colored fingering numbers for playing music, comprising:

(a) selecting a region of the music in which a default colored fingering is to be customized;

(b) enabling a user to edit one or more colors of the default colored fingering in the selected region;

(c) enabling a user to edit one or more fingering numbers of the default colored fingering in the selected region; and

(d) enabling a user to edit one or more hand position shifts of the default colored fingering in the selected region.